

April 16th, 2021

Humboldt County Administrative Office  
825 Fifth Street, Rm 112  
Eureka, CA 95501

**Re: City of Arcata Measure Z Quarterly Report**

**Measure Z 3rd Quarterly Narrative Fiscal Year 2020-21**

1. Please describe the Measure Z activities completed.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and Shelter-in-Place orders, distance instruction via Zoom continued throughout most of the Northern Humboldt K-12 area. At the request of school officials, Diversion counselors and the School Resource Officer (SRO) conducted welfare checks on local families who had children who were not attending virtual school, or that school staff were unable to contact. The SRO also takes calls from various school administrators on a weekly basis to answer questions or address concerns regarding families. Diversion Counselors continued to provide support to families participating in the program via telephone, Zoom, and in-person when conditions would allow. Diversion assisted with case management duties, such as assisting families with accessing food. Our Juvenile Diversion Department continues to assist in packing and delivering weekend meals for over 50 low-income students in the Northern Humboldt area. Our Juvenile Diversion counselors work with other service providers in the area to enable youth and families to gain access to community resources, activities and services during these trying times. Families who were struggling with mental health, transportation to school, and who were in need of in-home interventions were also provided support by Diversion staff. Our Diversion Department saw an increase in requests for informal support from community providers, schools, and parents during this year.

As of April 5<sup>th</sup> Northern Humboldt K-12 schools have started transitioning into a combination in-person/distance learning model. Juvenile Diversion Counselors continued to offer counseling, mentorship, and drug and alcohol intervention for youth involved in our program. Continued support and structure for families and youth is our top priority.

Sunrise Rotary of Arcata was awarded a grant that funded seven paid internships to homeless, adopted, and foster youth. The grant supports youth who face additional barriers to employment and helps strengthen at-risk youth and community relations. While managing a full caseload regarding truancy and at-home behavioral issues, our Juvenile Diversion Department is assisting Sunrise Rotary of Arcata with their internship program. Youth in the internship program are coached by Juvenile Diversion and Humboldt County's Transitional Age Youth staff in building resumes, applying for jobs, and in interview skills. The youth are also supported in acquiring legal documents such as birth certificates, social security cards, and California IDs necessary for employment. Out of the 7 internships, 1 participant has completed their internship and has successfully transitioned into employment. Three participants are currently working in their placements, and the remaining 3 interns have been matched with businesses and are expected to begin their internship by the end of April 2021. Diversion also assisted Sunrise Rotary interns in acquiring medical services, transportation, and food security support. The youth in this program not only face housing barriers and barriers to employment, but additional barriers

such as young motherhood, previous detention, and suffering from chronic illness. These young people are gaining work experience, opportunity, and connection to their community that they may not otherwise have. Juvenile Diversion's support of Sunrise Rotary of Arcata's internship program serves as an example of Juvenile Diversion's vision to collaborate with community members and partners to serve our at-risk youth. Diversion continues to collaborate and develop prevention and intervention strategies for those most at risk.

2. How many people have been served and how.

As of April 16th, 2021, the Juvenile Diversion Counselors (JDC's) provided services to 331 K-12<sup>th</sup> grade students, young adults, and families in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Supervisorial District and the western portion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District (west of Berry Summit), with direct services and case management. Our Juvenile Diversion Counselors and a School Resource Officer continue to serve the Northern Humboldt area, including McKinleyville, Arcata, Blue Lake, Trinidad and Samoa areas.

As a whole the program has been referred 159 cases via law enforcement (e.g., APD, HCSO, EPD, Juvenile Probation), 159 via school administration and the Student Attendance Review Board), and thirteen via community partners.

3. Who has benefited from the enhanced services and how.

The JDC's continue to be active community partners and participate in monthly-quarterly meetings to better serve our community with the following agencies: Multi-Agency Crisis Intervention Team (collaboration with local law enforcement departments, DHHS, and other community partners to serve local homeless/houseless and mentally ill populations), Child Abuse Services Team, SARB, Arcata and McKinleyville High Schools, Humboldt Allies for Substance Abuse Prevention, Juvenile Justice Delinquency & Prevention Commission, and Suicide Prevention Network.

These working relationships enable Diversion to use best practices in supporting youth and families in our community. The relationships we have built over the past several years has enabled our agency to become a true resource and support for fellow organizations, law enforcement agencies, educators, as well as youth and families.

Diversion participated in trainings, webinars, and roundtables such as; Skillful Self-Disclosure with at risk youth, Mindfulness Strategies for drug addicted youth, Strengths and Challenges of Child Abuse Prevention in Rural Communities, Juvenile Justice Series of School to Prison Pipeline and Juvenile Justice Reform, Sacred Motherhood and Sacred Fatherhood, Technology Harm and Impact on Youth Brain and Social Development. Trainings and seminars such as these enable Juvenile Diversion to integrate perspectives and priorities of our community into our practice to best serve our clients.

4. What difference did Measure Z funding make in our community and for the population you are serving? Please quantify the short-term impact of your project for the current year. *If you have evaluation materials that document outcomes and impacts of your work, feel free to attach them in lieu of answering this or other questions.*

This year, with one of our Diversion Counselors on maternity leave and in the midst of a pandemic, Diversion is proud to have provided services and support to 36 juveniles (17 Females, 19 Males). Juvenile Diversion managed 16 referrals from schools to address truancy, 9 for young adult internships or employment coaching, 8 to address in home conflict or need for mental health services, 2 vandalism, 1 marijuana and 1 runaway. 63% of our referral clients were White, 28% Native, 6% Black and 2 % Asian. As schools, youth, and families are continuing to adjust to changes in their daily routines, our program continues to modify and evolve to meet the needs and provide the best support to our community.

Case management and parenting classes have been the most effective strategies of our program. Case management allows Diversion to provide referrals, support and follow-up with local resources for struggling families and youth. During the last year, we have seen an increased need and requests for our Parent Project and Loving Solutions classes. Parents who have completed the program have all reported positive changes in their homes such as, decreased arguing and conflict in the home and increased school attendance. Families from all five of Humboldt County Supervisorial Districts attended these classes. Ten parents successfully completed the Parent Project program during the 1st quarter, representing 22 children in our community. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 15 parents completed our Parent Project course and seven families complete our Loving Solutions course, representing 43 youth in our community. Traditionally we only hold one series a year but seeing the increased need for support as well as effectiveness, our Diversion Department is dedicated to offering more Parent Project opportunities during the pandemic.

5. Please quantify the long-term impacts of your project. This would be for the entire time period that Measure Z has funded your project.

Diversion has managed 331 cases since October 2016, averaging approximately 100 formal cases a year. Our records show 95% of youth are successful in completing our program. Success is measured by completion of counseling, increased school attendance, and absence of further offenses. Only eight percent of youth who have entered the program failed to fulfill their Diversion Agreement or did not qualify for Diversion services due to the gravity of their offenses. Failure to complete is measured by not completing community service, continuing to violate the law, no improvement in school attendance, and failure to show up to several Diversion meetings

6. *Describe any unanticipated impacts of receiving Measure Z funding, positive or negative, not already described above.*

At this time, we have not experienced any unanticipated impacts of receiving Measure Z funding.

Sincerely,



Brian Ahearn  
Chief of Police